

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application Serial No. 10/693,648
Attorney Docket No. Q77838

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (previously presented): An image forming apparatus wherein a latent image on a latent image carrier is developed using a liquid developer, in which toner particles are dispersed in a carrier liquid and of which toner density is about 5 through 40 wt%, thereby forming a toner image, and the toner image is transferred onto a transfer medium, said apparatus comprising:

an optical sensor including a light emitter which irradiates light upon a toner image formed as a patch image on said latent image carrier, and a light receiver which receives light from the patch image; and

control means controlling an image forming condition which influences a toner image density based on a received-light signal from said light receiver,

wherein an average thickness of a layer of the carrier liquid in the patch image formed on said latent image carrier is larger than an average thickness of a layer of the toner particles.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The image forming apparatus of claim 2, wherein said light receiver receives regularly reflected light by the patch image which is irradiated by the light from said light emitter.

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Claim 4 (previously presented): An image forming method wherein a latent image on a latent image carrier is developed using a liquid developer, in which toner particles are dispersed in a carrier liquid and of which toner density is about 5 through 40 wt%, thereby forming a toner image, and the toner image is transferred onto a transfer medium, said method comprising the steps of:

irradiating light upon a toner image formed as a patch image on said latent image carrier;
receiving light from the patch image; and
controlling an image forming condition which influences a toner image density based on a received-light signal,
wherein an average thickness of a layer of the carrier liquid in the patch image formed on said latent image carrier is larger than an average thickness of a layer of the toner particles.

Claims 5-9. (canceled).